

Federal Government's zeal to regulate business in this country must be reined in. The American people sent a clear signal with the 1994 elections. That is why many of us in Congress are working overtime to cut Government red tape that is stifling our businesses and industry.

But this national gambling commission is not about Government interference. As I mentioned, 48 States have some form of legalized gambling, including 23 with operating casinos. There is even gambling on the Internet. I am not opposed to State lotteries but I note that today, gambling is done on river boats, Indian reservations, and in well-established downtowns. There are even proposals to put video gambling machines on airlines and to have gambling cars on passenger trains.

According to a study by U.S. News & World Report, Americans in 1992 legally wagered \$330 billion in casinos, race tracks, lotteries, et cetera. This represents an 1,800 percent increase since 1976. Mr. President, I believe Congress must recognize that legalized gambling is now a huge industry, and we must take steps to learn about this industry and to provide credible and objective facts for our States and communities.

Many towns and cities are in tight budgetary situations and are looking for new dollars without increasing local taxes. Legalized gambling has been seen by some as a panacea, not just as a means to avoid tax increases, but as a means to provide new jobs and stimulate economic growth.

Frankly, Mr. President, there is very little unbiased information about gambling's true economic and social impact in America. The gaming industry has produced its studies, which predictably paint a rosy picture for States and local governments. The opponents of gambling have likewise produced reports about the problems legalized casinos and other forms of gambling have brought to communities. We do not know who to believe.

In short, there is a real lack of unbiased information. An independent national gambling commission, as I envision it, will be fair-minded and provide information across a wide spectrum. It will examine the social impacts of gambling, including the impact on crime rates, political corruption, and family life. It will also examine its economic costs and benefits.

From the work of this commission, Congress will learn a great deal about this relatively unknown industry. Moreover, Virginia and her counterparts, and just as importantly local communities, will be able to use this information while making future decisions about creating or expanding legalized gambling.

I look forward to Senate consideration of this bill, and will work to ensure its passage.

IN HONOR OF HENRY WINKLER'S 50TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, as a long-standing member and now Chairman of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, I have been an outspoken critic of movie and television programs that have a negative impact on our children. However, I do make a point to single out those who make a positive contribution to quality programming. Today I want not only to pay tribute to an individual who has worked diligently to create programs that uplift and instruct our children, but also to extend congratulatory birthday greetings. Henry Winkler, an individual who already has established a milestone in television history, will celebrate another milestone on October 30, when he turns a golden fifty years of age.

All of us know Henry Winkler as the "Fonz" on the long running TV show "Happy Days". His famous motorcycle jacket is a permanent piece of the Smithsonian Institute's collection. As an actor, Mr. Winkler created a national icon. Today, he has established himself as one of Hollywood's most respected producers of family-oriented entertainment, and has drawn attention to humanitarian and family causes. In the 1970s, he won the prestigious Humanitas Award for his program "Who Are the DeBolts?", a documentary on a family with nineteen children, many of them adopted with special needs. In the 1980s, Henry brought back the "Fonz" to host the video "Strong Kids, Safe Kids", a widely distributed cassette that addressed child abuse. His production company, "JZM"—the initials derived from each first name of his three children—produced children's specials addressing a variety of important issues such as divorce and teenage drunk driving. Families also have enjoyed the exploits of "MacGyver", the story of an action hero who solved crimes with creativity and scientific knowledge, rather than guns or brute violence. Henry also continues to act, portraying characters who invariably learn or teach a heart-warming lesson, including last year's "Truman Capote's One Christmas", in which Henry co-starred with the legendary Katherine Hepburn. As both actor and producer, Henry has proven that good, clean programming can be entertaining, and as the "Fonz" would say, cool.

Henry Winkler's devotion and commitment to quality programming stems from clear fact: Henry Winkler is a quality human being. He has applied this same energy to the welfare of all children. He is a founding member of the Children's Action Network, dedicated to raising the profile of children's issues through the media. He has been national chairman of the annual Toys for Tots campaign, honorary chairman of the Epilepsy Foundation of America, the Special Olympics, and numerous teenage alcohol and drug abuse programs.

In recognition of his many humanitarian efforts, Henry Winkler has been honored by the United Nations, B'nai B'rith, Women in Film, and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Also honored by Hollywood, Mr. Winkler has his own star on the "Walk of Stars". In both his personal and professional life, Henry Winkler set a positive and highly respected standard for the entertainment industry. My wife, Harriett, and I join Henry's family and friends in wishing him a very happy birthday, good health and best wishes for another half-century of continued success.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2491. An act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 105 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1996.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 109. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the need for raising the social security earnings limit.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. HATFIELD, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals from the Concurrent Resolution for Fiscal Year 1996" (Rept. No. 104-165).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By MR. LIEBERMAN:

S. 1367. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to strengthen the payment limitations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.